GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1739
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2000
COMMISSION ON CHILD LABOUR
PRABHAT KUMAR SAMANTARAY

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up any Commission on Child Labour at State level;

(b) whether the Union Government have asked the State Governments to set up such Commission on Child Labour;

(c) if so, the response of State Governments thereto; and

(d) the steps taken to ban the Child Labour in different States?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL)

(a) : No, Sir.

(b) & (c) : Does not arise.

(d) : Government has taken a series of steps to address the problem of child labour in the country. A National Policy on Child Labour was announced by the Government in 1987 which envisages strict enforcement of child labour related laws, convergence of services for the benefit of parents of child labour in order to improve their economic conditions and launching of projects in areas of high concentration of child labour. Under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986, employment of children is prohibited in occupations/processes listed in the schedule to the Act. The employment condition of children in other occupations and processes is recirculated under the Act.

Apart from legal measures, Government has taken steps for withdrawal and rehabilitation of child labour working in hazardous occupations through the scheme of National Child Labour Projects. Under the scheme of NCLP, special schools have been set up with the provision for non-formal education vocational training, nutrition, stipend, health care etc. So far, 94 child labour projects have been sanctioned in 11 child labour endemic States for coverage of about 2 lakh children. This issue was also deliberated upon by the Hon`ble Supreme Court.The Court has given several directions, in their judgement dated 10.12.96, including payment of compensation by the employers employing children in hazardous occupations. The government has already taken a number of steps to implement these directions.